

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5885

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 3960

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, KE

SUBJ: KENYAN REACTION TO US POLICY ON SOMALI WITHDRAWAL
FROM ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 62090

1. ON MARCH 14 I BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY FOR UNITED NATIONS AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MAITHA, ON SUBSTANCE OF REFERENCE. MAITHA MADE NOTES DURING CONVERSATION AND SAID HE WOULD PREPARE MEMO FOR FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE PRESIDENT.

2. IN DISCUSSING CONDITIONS GOVERNING US PROVISION OF ARMS
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TO SOMALIA, MAITHA ASKED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE "RENEWED COMMITMENT BY SOMALIA NOT TO DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA.." KENYA COULD NOT, MAITHA SAID, ACCEPT ANY "COMMITMENT" THAT WAS NOT MADE PUBLICLY AND RECOGNIZED BOTH BY THE OAU AND THE UN. HE FELT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE 1967 ARUSHA ACCORD OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

KENYA AND SOMALIA, BY WHICH THE 63-67 SHIFTA INSURGENCY WAS TERMINATED. HE WAS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE STRONGER AND MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE ARUSHA UNDERSTANDING, AND HE DOUBTED THAT KENYA WOULD BE A FORTH-COMING AS IT WAS EARLIER IN FACILITATING GDSR INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF ETHNIC SOMALIS IN KENYA.

3. MAITHA ASKED IF SIAD HAD AGREED TO MAKE COMMITMENT ON BORDERS. I REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED IF HE HAD DONE SO.

4. MAITHA COMMENTED THAT, EVEN WITH SOMALI GUARANTEES, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE HAPPY WITH US ARMS SUPPLY TO SOMALIA. MAITHA QUESTIONED THE SOMALI NEED FOR "DEFENSIVE ARMS" BECAUSE SOMALIA FACED NO THREAT TO HER SECURITY. IF THE ETHIOPIANS DID NOT INVADE SOMALIA NOW AS RETRIBUTION FOR THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE SOMALI INVASION, THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT EITHIOPIA WOULD POSE A SECURITY THREAT TO SOMALIA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. KENYA, CERTAINLY, HAD NO DESIGNS ON SOMALI TERRITORY, AND THERE WAS NO CONCEIVABLE THREAT TO SOMALIA FROM DJIBOUTI. CONSEQUENTLY, MOST KENYANS WOULD CONCLUDE THAT SOMALIA ONLY WANTED ADDITIONAL ARMS IN ANTICIPATION OF SOME FUTURE ATTEMPT ON THE TERRITORIES OF HER NEIGHBORS. IN THIS REGARD MAITHA WONDERED WHY SOMALIA WAS NOT ASKED TO GUARANTEE THE BOUNDARY OF DJIBOUTI, AS WELL AS THOSE OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA.
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5. MAITHA ASKED WHAT WE CONSIDERED "DEFENSIVE ARMS." I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT KNOW BUT WOULD INQUIRE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6. FINALLY, MAITHA ASKED IF WE WERE HAVING ANY SUCCESS IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES OR WITH PLACING NEUTRAL OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN. I REPLIED THAT, AS FAR AS I WAS AWARE, THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS, BUT WE STILL HOPED THAT THE OAU COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING THESE ENDS.

7. COMMENT: FROM TALKS WITH MANY KENYAN OFFICIALS AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN GOVERNMENT, I AM CONVINCED THAT US ARMS SUPPLY TO SOMALIA, EVEN OF "DEFENSIVE" ITEMS, WILL PREJUDICE TO SOME EXTENT OUR RELATIONS HERE. THE DAMAGE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE LIMITED BY OUR COOPERATION IN HELPING KENYA MEET ITS OWN SECURITY NEEDS.

8. I WOULD URGE THAT WE AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF PRECIPITATE ACTION IN OUR ARMS DEALINGS WITH MOGADISCIO. A SOMALI PROGRAM SHOULD, IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN AVOIDING OFFENSE TO KENYAN

SENSIBILITIES, BY SUBJECTED TO THE SAME CONDITIONS AS OUR ASSISTANCE HERE. THAT IS TO SAY, THERE SHOULD BE NO AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY DEFENSE MATERIEL IN SOMALIA WITHOUT THE SAME SORT OF SURVEY AS IS BEING REQUIRED IN KENYA. WE SHOULD MAKE AN ACCURATE THREAT ASSESSMENT IN SOMALIA, AS WE ARE DOING HERE, AND WE SHOULD CAREFULLY EVALUATE SOMALIA'S NEEDS AND HER ABILITY TO ABSORB EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. IF WE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES, WE MAY BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE KENYANS THAT WE ARE BEING EVEN-HANDED AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, WE ARE GIVING THE SOMALIS NO MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT THAN WE HAVE GIVEN KENYA.

9. I ASSUME WE WILL BE INFORMED IF SIAD AGREES TO BOUNDARY COMMITMENT.
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10. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING "DEFENSIVE ARMS" DEFINED FOR US, SO THAT IN OUR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KENYANS WE MAY APPEAR MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE.
BLANE

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